



## AIDE MEMOIRE

### Update on MIQ readiness planning work

<b>Date:</b>	6 May 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-4309

#### Information for Minister(s)

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**

#### Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Andrew Milne	Deputy Secretary, MIQ	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Shayne Gray	General Manager, MIQ Policy		

#### The following departments/agencies have been consulted

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**Minister's office to complete:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn           |

#### Comments



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### Purpose

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This aide memoire provides you with an update on our readiness planning work, in advance of the first version of the Readiness Plan being put to you and the Minister of Finance, for consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, on 30 May.

Andrew Milne  
**Deputy Secretary – MIQ**  
MBIE

06 / 05 / 2022

### Background

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1. On 25 April, you, in consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, agreed to decommission – and thereby close – the Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) network in its entirety by August 2022, rather than December 2022 as previously agreed [BR 2122-4081 refers].
2. On 28 April, the Minister of Finance agreed in principle, subject to the provision of a Readiness Plan for reactivating MIQ, if necessary [BR 2122-4081 refers].
3. This briefing provides you with an update on our readiness planning work, in advance of the first version of the Readiness Plan being put to you and the Minister of Finance, for consultation with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, on 30 May.

### We are working to prepare a Readiness Plan for isolation and quarantine

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#### Purpose and scope of the Readiness Plan

4. On 22 March, we advised you and the Minister of Finance that we were alive to potential concerns about closing the MIQ network while COVID-19 still presents risk to New Zealand [BR 2122-4081 refers].
5. In that vein, we are preparing a Readiness Plan for rapidly reactivating isolation and quarantine capacity if necessary to respond to a public health threat, following border closures.
6. The Plan will initially be specific to COVID-19 (e.g. if needed to respond to a virulent, vaccine-escaping variant), but will be adapted over time to be disease-agnostic.

7. The Readiness Plan will bridge the time horizon between the closure of the current MIQ network, and the availability of future interventions proposed by the National Quarantine Capability (NQC) business case that are agreed by Cabinet.
8. In its final form, we expect that the Readiness Plan will provide:
  - a. A sequenced approach (i.e. a 'task list') for rapidly implementing functions to reactivate isolation and quarantine capability
  - b. A blueprint of the current MIQ operating model, and a repository of updated Standard Operating Procedures
  - c. A talent directory of critical personnel that could be called upon to assist
  - d. A directory of key suppliers and contractual retainers (with costings)
  - e. Partnership arrangements with government agencies and iwi
  - f. Details of how the plan will be regularly reviewed, maintained, and tested.
9. We are currently working with government agencies to understand their planning for future COVID-19 scenarios, assumptions underpinning their work, interdependencies, and possible timeframes for reactivation of isolation and quarantine capacity. These discussions will inform our phased approach to ramping-up capacity.

## **Retention, surge, and partnership agreements**

### *Partnership agreements*

10. As part of the Plan, we will look to formalise partnerships with key government agencies (e.g. New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), Ministry of Health (MOH), Aviation Security Service (AvSec)) and iwi forged during the operation of MIQ.
11. These partnerships may take the form of Memoranda of Understanding that set out, for example, agencies' agreement to redeploy personnel (e.g. NZDF), provide products (e.g. COVID-19 tests), supply services (eg healthcare, security), and work together (e.g. with iwi) within agreed timeframes, once the Plan is triggered (and to remain prepared for such event).

### *Contractual retainers*

12. We will also look to institute commercial arrangements with key existing MIQ suppliers, in the form of retainer contracts. Having such retainers in place provides assurance that the Plan is achievable.
13. It is possible that hotels are unwilling to enter into contractual retainers. However, early discussions suggest there is an appetite to do so.
14. Contractual retainers will be funded through MIQ's existing appropriation. These contracts will run to June 2023, when MIQ's current funding ends. Seeking funding for ongoing retainers will be a key component of maintaining the Plan. It is likely that a procurement exercise will need to be run to cater to provision of services after June 2023.
15. We will include indicative costs in the first version of the Plan. We are unlikely to have contractual retainers finalised by 30 May.

## **Timeframes for delivery of the Readiness Plan**

16. In preparing the Readiness Plan, we are reviewing lessons learned from MIQ's operation in 2020-2022.

17. We expect to provide you and the Minister of Finance with a first version of the Readiness Plan on 30 May 2022. This first version will be based on reinstating MIQ in its current form, with minor/technical improvements to parts of the system, and addressing concerns with the emergency allocation process as highlighted by the Grounded Kiwis judicial review.
18. Following receipt of your feedback on this first version, we'll work to prepare a second version of the Plan by 30 July 2022. This version will address lessons learned from MIQ's 2020-2022 operation, and other findings from the Grounded Kiwis judicial review. We will seek your guidance on significant decisions, particularly those requiring financial investment.
19. We expect to have a full and final Readiness Plan in place by 31 August 2022.

### **Agency ownership of the Readiness Plan**

20. This Plan will form the genesis of the NQC.
21. We expect that a small team of people will be required to review, update, and periodically test the Plan, and manage relationships and agreements with retained suppliers (i.e. hotels, transport, security) and agency partners.
22. In October 2022, we will be providing Cabinet with a) the NQC Programme Business Case, and b) advice on enduring institutional arrangements (agency ownership and machinery of government considerations) for the NQC.
23. We expect that the agency responsible for delivering the NQC would also take ownership of the Readiness Plan.

### **Governance of the Readiness Plan**

24. We will look to establish a multi-agency advisory group to govern the development of the Readiness Plan, with representatives from MBIE, MIQ, NZDF, MOH/Health NZ, AvSec, the National Emergency Management Agency and iwi. Privacy of natural persons will also serve as an independent advisor.
25. A multi-agency working group will also be established to develop the second and third (i.e. final) versions of the Readiness Plan.

### **Readiness planning in Australian States**

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26. We have recently met with Australian counterparts from Victoria and Queensland and have gleaned insights pertinent to our readiness planning.
27. International relations

### **Next steps**

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28. We will provide you and the Minister of Finance with the first version of the Readiness Plan on 30 May 2022.